



News Release

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Oklahoma Names State Junior Duck Stamp Competition Winner

A Skiatook High School student won the 2007 Oklahoma Junior Duck Stamp Competition's Best of Show award for his entry "Final Approach."

Cole Lamson, a 17 year old from Skiatook, north of Tulsa, received the highest honor for his colored pencil rendition depicting a pair of northern pintails. The Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge hosted the statewide Junior Duck Stamp Competition on April 10. The artwork will now be sent on to Washington D.C. to represent Oklahoma in the National Junior Duck Stamp Competition.

The Junior Duck Stamp artwork will be on display at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center throughout April and May. The Visitor Center is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily but is closed on Tuesdays.

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is an integrated art and science curriculum developed to teach kindergarten through high school students environmental science and habitat characteristics while exploring the aesthetic qualities of wildlife and nature.

Lamson's artwork was chosen from more than 200 creations that were submitted from students across the state. The task of selecting the winning artwork was taken on by volunteer judges: Jack Tyler, ornithologist and professor emeritus at Cameron University; Donna Phillips, WMWR Volunteer; Ralph Godfrey, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Randy Abbe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Donna Lindsey, WMWR Volunteer.

For further information about the Junior Duck Stamp Competition, please call D'Anna Mallow, State Coordinator at 580-429-3087.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees

the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies. Visit the Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov>.

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